

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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APPROVED BY ARA - AMBASSADOR RYAN

USOAS:JWFORD

ARA/BR:RWZIMMERMANN

USOAS:WSMAILLIARD

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P R 231638Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 120939

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS

SUBJECT: OAS SECRETARY GENERAL ELECTION

TOKYO FOR ROGERS

SUMMARY: THE BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY IS APPARENTLY PROMOTING THE NOTION THAT THERE WAS A GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT AMONG THE FOUR BIGGEST OAS MEMBERS WHEREBY NONE OF THEIR CITIZENS WOULD BE ELECTED SECRETARY GENERAL. AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL THIS IDEA IS A RECENT BRAZILIAN CREATION, AND THE IMPRESSION THAT WE WERE WELSHING ON AN AGREEMENT BY VOTING FOR ORFILA IS NOT PLEASING. END SUMMARY.

1. WE HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT DISTURBED BY STORIES IN THE PRESS THAT ITAMARATY IS ALLEGING THE U.S. AND ARGENTINA HAVE BROKEN A QTE GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT UNQTE WHEREBY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE U.S., BRAZIL, MEXICO AND ARGENTINA WOULD
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NOT SEEK THE SECRETARY GENERAL POST. (E.G., JORNAL DO BRAZIL, MAY 18; UPI, MAY 19) SIMILAR BUT LESS SPECIFIC STORIES WERE FLOATING ABOUT IN THE OAS DURING THE CAMPAIGN.

2. WE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT SUCH AN AGREEMENT. USOAS HAS COMBED ITS FILES AND ITS INSTITUTIONAL MEMORY (JOHN FORD, SI WILSON) AND CAN FIND NO EVIDENCE OF ANY SUCH AGREEMENT. THE FILES DO, HOWEVER, REVEAL THAT BRAZIL'S ADHERENCE

TO SUCH AN AGREEMENT MUST POSTDATE THE 1968 ELECTION WHEN GALO PLAZA WAS ELECTED.

3. FOR EXAMPLE, IN MAY AND JUNE 1967 BRAZIL AND THE U.S. CONSULTED REGARDING POSSIBLE CANDIDATES FOR SECRETARY GENERAL. BOTH BRAZILIAN AND NON-BRAZILIAN CANDIDATES WERE MENTIONED. BRAZIL ALSO TOOK SOUNDINGS WITH OTHER OAS MEMBERS, AS WELL AS THE U.S., ON A POSSIBLE CANDIDACY BY JOAO GONCALVES DE SOUZA, A BRAZILIAN WHO IS NOW OAS ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION.

4. ON AUGUST 11, 1967 THE BRAZILIAN ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE OAS, MINISTER VASCO MARIZ, TELEPHONED A USOAS OFFICER ON THIS MATTER. HE SAID HIS FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD ASKED HIS DELEGATION TO SOUND OUT OTHER DELEGATIONS ON THE POSSIBILITY OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL (A U.S. CITIZEN) SERVING AS ACTING SECRETARY GENERAL FOR THE YEAR OR SO BETWEEN THE EXPIRATION OF THE TERM OF SECRETARY GENERAL MORA AND THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE AMENDED OAS CHARTER (PROTOCOL OF BUENOS AIRES). MARIZ ALSO REFERRED TO GONCALVES DE SOUZA AND CARLOS MUNIZ OF ARGENTINA AS GOOD MEN WHOM THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS HAD QTE UP THEIR SLEEVES UNQTE FOR THE SECRETARY GENERAL RACE.

5. THE BRAZILIAN EMBASSY FOLLOWED UP THIS CONVERSATION WITH AN AIDE-MEMOIRE DATED AUGUST 23, 1967, GIVING THE VIEW THAT CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO QTE THE ALTERNATIVE OF ESTABLISHING A TEMPORARY MANDATE FOR THE PERIOD, PRESUMABLY LESS THAN ONE YEAR, DURING WHICH THE NEW CHARTER HAS NOT YET GONE INTO EFFECT. UNQTE. THIS WOULD HAVE OPENED THE WAY FOR THE U.S.-CITIZEN ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL TO BE ACTING SECRETARY GENERAL.
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6. A UPI STORY OF MAY 19, 1975 ON THE ALLEGED GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT, QUOTES ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER VIGNES, AS NOTING THE 1968 CANDIDACY OF MUNIZ, WHO HE SAID HAD THE SUPPORT OF BRAZIL IN THAT ELECTION.

7. OUR RECORDS ARE NOT DEFINITIVE ON THAT ELECTION, OF COURSE, SINCE THE ELECTION WAS SECRET. BUT OUR MISSION AT THE TIME RECORDED BRAZIL AS PROBABLY HAVING VOTED FOR MUNIZ. THERE IS NOTHING IN THE FILES WHICH WOULD INDICATE THAT THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT FELT THAT ANY COUNTRY WAS INHIBITED BY AN AGREEMENT.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: THE EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO RAISE

THIS MATTER WITH THE APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE FOREIGN
MINISTRY IF YOU BELIEVE THE PRESS STORIES WERE INSPIRED
THERE. THE EMBASSY MAY DRAW UPON THE ABOVE AS YOU SEE FIT.

IF THERE WAS AN AGREEMENT AT SOME POINT IN THE PAST, WE
WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION THE BRAZILIANS MAY HAVE
ABOUT IT.

9. THE U.S. VOTE FOR ORFILA WAS TAKEN AFTER LONG AND
CAREFUL CONSIDERATION. WE HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT THAT WE
COULD HAVE COOPERATED WELL WITH GOMEZ BERGES, BUT WE
BELIEVE THAT ORFILA WAS THE SUPERIOR OF THE TWO CANDIDATES.
WE HOPE THAT THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT UNDERSTANDS AND
APPRECIATES THIS POSITION.

10. FYI. WE WERE SURPRISED BY THE VEHEMENCE OF BRAZIL'S
OPPOSITION TO ORFILA AND THE CONTINUING POST MORTEM.
(SOME MEMBERS OF THE BRAZILIAN OASGA DELEGATION WERE PRI-
VATELY SCORNFUL OF GOMEZ AS A PROSPECTIVE SECRETARY
GENERAL.) THE POST, WHILE PRESTIGIOUS, IS NOT REALLY A
POLICY-MAKING ONE, IN ANY EVENT. ANY VIEWS THE EMBASSY
MAY HAVE ON THIS WOULD BE APPRECIATED. END FYI. INGERSOLL

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